

1 SURVEY OBJECTIVES, KEY VARIABLES, AND OTHER PRELIMINARIES

1(a) Survey Objectives

For CWNS 2022, states will only have the option to use a “Traditional” CWNS Method. This method requires CWNS State coordinators to perform a census of the wastewater operators and communities in their state and report their needs to EPA through the CWNS Data Entry Portal (DEP). Although a “Gap Approach¹” was researched for the CWNS 2012, that approach was never implemented and the information contained in the previous Part B, which was submitted a decade ago, is no longer relevant.

1(b) Key Variables

No key variables are needed, since there is no representative sample of wastewater systems that will be collected or analyzed.

1(c) Statistical Approach

In all previous data collection efforts for the CWNS a census approach (Traditional Approach) was used. This traditional approach was also used for the CWNS 2012 and will be continued for the CWNS 2022.

1(d) Feasibility

- No GAP approach will be implemented, therefore there is no need to assess the feasibility of this approach.

2 SURVEY DESIGN

2(a) Target Population and Coverage

The Gap Approach that was described in 2012, which was never implemented, will not be implemented in 2022. Therefore, there is no target population or coverage necessary.

2(b) Sample Design

2(b)(i) Sampling Frame

No Sampling Frame is necessary since no statistical analysis will be performed for the CWNS 2022.

¹ The “Gap Approach” was developed in advance of the CWNS 2012 to provide states the option of using a statistical approach to estimate needs for their wastewater systems to reduce the burden and only require data collection from a smaller subsection of wastewater systems in each state. However, this approach was never implemented.

2(b)(ii) Sample Size

- No Sample Size needs to be defined since no statistical analysis will be performed for the CWNS 2022.

2(b)(iii) Stratification Variables

Stratification Variables do not need to be defined since no statistical analysis will be performed for the CWNS 2022.

2(b)(iv) Sampling Method

No Sampling Method is necessary since no statistical analysis will be performed for the CWNS 2022.

2(b)(v) Multi-Stage Sampling

No Multi-Stage Sampling is necessary since no statistical analysis will be performed for the CWNS 2022.

2(c) Precision Requirements

2(c)(i) Precision Targets

Precision Targets do not need to be defined since no statistical analysis will be performed for the CWNS 2022.

2(c)(ii) Non-sampling error

No Non-sampling errors needs to be defined no statistical analysis will be performed for the CWNS 2022.

2(d) Questionnaire Design

No additional Questionnaire is necessary since no statistical analysis will be performed for the CWNS 2022.

3 PRETESTS AND PILOT TESTS

Since there is no statistical analysis being performed for the CWNS 2022, no pretests or pilot test were necessary to test this approach.

4 COLLECTION METHODS AND FOLLOW-UP

4(a) Collection Methods

CWNS State coordinators from states participating in the CWNS will be able to use the online CWNS DEP to input their state data:

- Forms will be pre-populated with data currently in the 2012 CWNS.
- State coordinators will be able to send dedicated links to small communities using the Small Community Form to simplify the process for submitting data to the DEP.

4(b) Survey Response and Follow-up

EPA plans to continue outreach and assistance efforts for all states, as needed, over the course of data collection.

5 ANALYZING AND REPORTING SURVEY RESULTS

5(a) Data Preparation

States are ultimately responsible for collecting and entering the information into the CWNS DEP and for the quality of the data entered. The DEP is equipped with automatic error checks to identify systems that fall outside certain normal parameters and during the data entry period of the CWNS 2022 EPA and its contractors will perform reviews of the information and documentation submitted.

5(b) Analysis

No statistical analysis or extrapolation will be performed for the CWNS 2022.

5(c) Reporting Results

Traditional Method capital needs will be reported in the CWNS 2022 Report to Congress.